

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

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R 161418Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7277

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

SAMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 180

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LX, LM, TD, VE

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS ON LATIN AMERICAN-CARIBBEAN
SUMMIT

REF: CARACAS 12432, DEC 19, 1974; POS 2980, DEC 27, 1974

1. IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE "TRINIDAD GUARDIAN," JANUARY 15
PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS PLEADED IGNORANCE ABOUT PLANS FOR A
CARIBBEAN-LATIN AMERICAN SUMMIT MEETING WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE
BEEN SCHEDULED FOR EARLY THIS YEAR. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH
HE HAD AGREED SOMETIME LAST YEAR TO A MEETING OF ALL OF THE
CARIBBEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO A
PROPOSAL BY THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA FOR A MEETING OF HEADS
OF GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFS OF STATE OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
COUNTRIES, HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC PLANS FOR EITHER
MEETING DESPITE REPORTS THAT A VENEZUELAN-CARIBBEAN SUMMIT
MEETING WAS TO TAKE PLACE IN TRINIDAD IN JANUARY (REFTELS).
IN ORDER TO CLEAR UP THE SITUATION, DR. WILLIAMS SAID THAT HE
HAD WRITTEN TO THE OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN
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ASKING FOR EXPLANATIONS AND CLARIFICATION.

2. ON A RELATED SUBJECT, DR. WILLIAMS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE AND VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD FOR SOME TIME TO A MEETING TO DISCUSS BILATERAL QUESTIONS, THEY HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO ORGANIZE ON BECAUSE OF THEIR BUSY SCHEDULES.

3. COMMENT: IT HAD BEEN NOTEWORTH HERE AS SUCCESSIVE FRONT-PAGE NEWSPAPER STORIES DATELINED CARACAS ANNOUNDED FIRST A SUMMIT MEETING IN PORT OF SPAIN AND LATER A MEETING "ABOARD SHIP," THAT NOT ONE WORD OF CONFIRMATION HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM TRINIDAD SOURCES. PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' DEPARTURE ON AN EXTENDED ASIAN TRIP NOW CONVENIENTLY PRECLUDES WHOLE EXERCISE FOR TIME BEING, BUT WE CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER JUST HOW SKEPTICAL WILLIAMS MAY BE OF DESIRABILITY OF MAJOR VENEZUELAN INFLUENCE INITIATIVES IN CARIBBEAN. SEE POS 106 FOR HIS CRITICAL COMMENTS TO ME REGARDING PROPOSED VENEZUELAN FINANCING OF LIAT AIRLINE.
MILLER

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